



# FACT SHEET

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## U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

### Materiel Assessment Review Board

#### Overview

The U.S. Department of Defense has tested and disposed of chemical warfare materiel at military installations in the United States and its territories since 1918. These sites include active military installations, closed installations, land turned over to other government agencies and land transferred to private ownership. Range clearing operations and environmental remediation activities will often unearth old chemical warfare materiel.

In January 1995, the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) established the Materiel Assessment Review Board, or MARB, to make decisions for the Department of the Army regarding recovered suspected chemical warfare materiel. Many munitions and containers recovered from old burial sites at these installations lack identifying marks due to age and condition. This makes identification difficult and requires the use of non-destructive and non-intrusive methods to identify the item, its fill and status of its firing abilities. The MARB aids in the Army's effort to accurately assess and treat recovered chemical warfare materiel.

#### MARB membership

The MARB comprises 10 permanent voting members, several non-voting members and several ad-hoc members. Its members hail from various Army organizations including the U.S. Army Materiel Command; AMC's U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and Edgewood Chemical Biological Center; the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) and its Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project; the U.S. Army Forces Command and its 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives), CBRNE

Analytical and Remediation Activity (CARA), 48th Chemical Brigade, 52d Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) and 71st Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal). The director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency appoints all MARB members and a subordinate commander of the 20th Support Command chairs the board.

#### MARB roles and responsibilities

CMA, through the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project, maintains written records for and funds MARB activities and required responses to assess, recover and treat suspected chemical warfare materiel. These activities may include providing safe storage for recovered chemical warfare materiel



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and providing protective equipment, communications equipment, travel and any equipment necessary to safely and properly perform the emergency response mission.

As part of the U.S. Army Forces Command, the 20th Support Command maintains the capability to safely and properly perform on-site response by providing the qualified manpower for response, assessment and recovery of suspected chemical warfare

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Materiel Assessment Review Board

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materiel. The 20th Support Command operates NSCMP assessment technologies at the recovery site, providing the MARB with critical information regarding the item’s explosive configuration and chemical fill.

Assessment and review process

When a suspect chemical item is recovered, one of the 20th Support Command’s response teams deploys to the recovery site. The team photographs the item and X-rays it using NSCMP’s non-intrusive Digital Radiography and Computed Tomography (DRCT) system to determine if it contains a fuze, burster and/or fill. If the X-ray shows a fill line, the response team further assesses the item using NSCMP’s non-intrusive Portable Isotopic Neutron Spectroscopy (PINS) system to identify the chemical fill. After the response team completes its assessment, it forwards all data to the MARB for further review and secures the item until a destruction plan can be developed.

The MARB convenes usually within two or three days of receipt of assessment data (sooner if the item is deemed unstable or unsafe to move). As a key part of the analytical process,

MARB members review photographs, DRCT and PINS data. To properly assess the item, MARB members also review historical and additional analytical data provided by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command’s Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. After all data has been presented and reviewed, the MARB members vote on the recommended disposition of the item. The four possible board recommendations are:

- Chemical, non-explosive system demilitarization
- Chemical, explosive system demilitarization
- Conventional, disposition to be determined locally
- Unsafe, destroy as soon as possible

The Army is committed to accurately assessing and classifying recovered suspect chemical warfare materiel and providing maximum protection to workers and the public while complying with all applicable environmental rules and regulations.

Determination	MARB Recommendation
Chemical	Non-explosive system demilitarization
Chemical	Explosive system demilitarization
Conventional	Disposition to be determined locally
Unsafe	Destroy as soon as possible